薔薇のマリア

2 SILLY LOVE SONG

漫画：是美三々
Misuzu Sumio

原作：十文字青
Ao Jyumonji

キャラクター原案：BUNBUN

A BRAVE HEART OF RED ROSE

Kadokawa Comics A

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地下迷宮での探索で散々な目に遭ったマリアローズ。
そのため、街で英気を養う事にしたマリアローズだが、
そこでもまたアジアンが現れてしまい、とんでもない事件に
巻き込まれてしまうのだった…。
美しき〈侵入者〉マリアローズの愛と友情と冒険の物語第2巻!

LOVE SONG
薔薇のマリア
漫画：是美三々 Misumi Sugao
原作：十文字青 Ao Jyumonji
キャラクター原案 BUNBUN
A BRAVE HEART OF
REDROSE

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chapter 5 EASY MONEY

A FEW DAYS LATER, AFTER RETURNING FROM A FRUITLESS EXPEDITION INTO A LABYRINTH OF PERVERTS,
OUR HERO STARTED WORRYING ABOUT MONEY...
AN AUCTION OF RARE ITEMS?
YUP,
ONE OF MY COLLECTOR BUDDIES IS ORGANIZING IT.

IT MIGHT SEEM A BIT SUDDEN,
BUT HE WANTS YOU TO HELP OUT AS HIS ASSISTANT.
AN ASSIS-TANT, HUH...
HMM...
DOES SOMETHING SEEM OFF TO YOU?
JUST THE VERY FACT THAT YOU'RE THE ONE BRING-ING THIS UP IS ALREADY OFF TO ME...
DON'T WORRY, THIS TIME IT'S EASY MONEY!
AND THE CLIENT IS A GOOD GUY!
This time?
IT'S COOL THAT HE'S A GOOD GUY—
BUT DON'T OVERDO IT!

BECAUSE AFTER ALL, WE'LL BE RAIDING AN UNDERGROUND DUNGEON THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
AH,
AS I THOUGHT, IT WILL ONLY BE THE FOUR OF US?
TOMATO-KUN HAS SOME PERSONAL BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
AND SAFINIA IS SICK
I'm sorry
I'm sorry
IS THAT SO...
SO...
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO?
HMM...
IN THAT CASE, TOMOR-ROW...
I GUESS I'LL JUST DO SOME MAINTE-NANCE ON MY EQUIPMENT.
?
THAT'S A SHAME.
IT WAS A SPECIAL PAY RATE OF 10,000 AN HOUR, TOO...

HEY PIMPERNEL ARE YOU FREE TOMORROW...
UMM...
YOU SAID TOMORROW EVENING, RIGHT?
SO... THIS JOB...
WHAT DO I DO EXACTLY AS AN "ASSISTANT"?
LET'S SEE...
PUT THE AUCTIONED ITEM ON TOP OF THE TRAY,
AND JUST TAKE IT TO AND FROM THE STAGE
THAT SEEMS A BIT TOO EASY...
THERE AREN'T ANY TRAPS THAT REQUIRE ME TO WEAR A BUNNY SUIT, RIGHT?
WOW, YOU DON'T TRUST ME AT ALL, DO YOU?

TODAY IT'S BLACK CLOTHES FOR ME! I'M A GUARD!
I'M PROTECTING THE EVENT FROM NUISANCES
NUISANCES...
THINKING OF HIM AS SOON AS I HEARD THAT WORD ISN'T TOO NICE, IS IT...
Hahā...
KATARI AND MARIA ROSE,
I'M COUNTING ON BOTH OF YOU TODAY.

JUST TRY AND SKIP OUT ON WORK AND I'LL BLOODY KILL YOU.
"A GOOD GUY"...?
I look too good!
IT SUITS ME, RIGHT? THESE BLACK CLOTHES!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE JUST COME FROM A FUNERAL
BORROWED CLOTHES
KATARI,
WHO'S THAT?
AH, YOU SEE HE'S...
SPEWK. LIKE SALT.

*Salt is sprinkled to purify places spiritually. It is also used when someone you don't like or someone unpleasant has just left, in which it would carry a meaning like "Don't come again" which is why Katari used it after Maria insulted him

OHHHH...
YOUR HUS—
MY HUSBAND
...BAND?!
Hus band?

IS THERE A PROB-LEM?
SURELY, YOU WEREN'T THINKING THAT I WAS A GUY NOW, WERE YOU?
NOW, NOW. LET'S ALL CALM DOWN
IT'S WEIRD... IT FEELS LIKE MY ROLE IS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF WHAT IT USUALLY IS...
LET'S TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT...
THESE ITEMS THAT ARE GOING TO BE AUC-TIONED
JUST WHAT SORT OF THINGS ARE THEY?

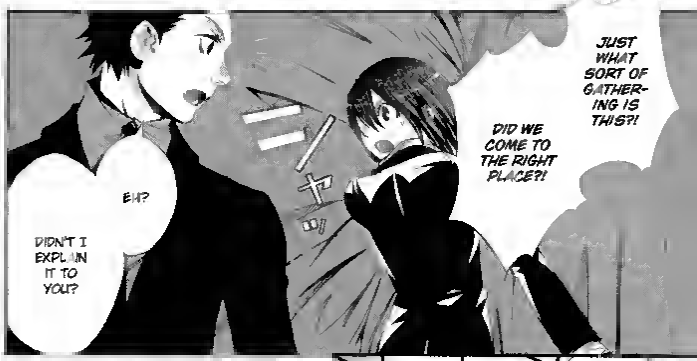
A VERY OLD BOOK
INKSTONE FROM THE AGE OF THE MAOU KING
AN OLD CLAY FIGURE
Just a really old book...
SORRY... BUT WHAT CAN I SAY?
THESE ARE ALL THINGS I WOULD NEVER DREAM OF WANTING...
WILL THERE REALLY BE ANY CUSTO-MERS?!
YOU SAID "RARE ITEMS" SO I THOUGHT FOR SURE
THAT IT WOULD BE LIKE A SWORD OR SOMETHING FROM THE MAOU KING'S PERIOD
HAHA...
I'M AN AMATEUR MYSELF

OH!

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S QUITE A CROWD OUT THERE!

HAVE A LOOK-SEE.

SO I HAVE NO CLUE WHERE OR WHAT IS SO VALUABLE ABOUT THEM
...EVEN IF YOU GOT HIM TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU,
IT WOULD JUST BE A WASTE OF TIME
I SOMETIMES SEE COUPLES LIKE THIS, BUT—
...JUST WHAT IS IT THAT THEY SEE IN EACH OTHER?
.....



THIS IS A MASKED AUCTION.
THE REASON IS VERY SIMPLE.
"Shy?!"
ON WHAT BASIS ARE THEY "SHY"?
I JUST CAN'T PUT MYSELF TO UNDERSTAND...
HEY NOW...
THE MANIAS* ARE BASICALLY SHY CREATURES.

*Manias = crazy collector people who are interested.

THINK WHATEVER YOU WANT ABOUT COLLECTORS, BUT
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE MAKING FOOLS OUT OF THE CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE GATHERED HERE TODAY
THERE'S NOTHING MORE UNSIGHTLY THAN AN IDIOT MAKING A FOOL OUT OF AN IDIOT
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I'M AN IDI—
IT'S FINE!

KATAKI IS GENERALLY JUST AS POSITIVE AND FORCEFUL AS A CERTAIN SOMEONE.
THE SAME? HOW?
EH!?
YOU'RE THE SAME AS ME, THEN.
IS THAT SO...
WELL, PROBABLY
I can tell!
HER BAD ATTITUDE IS LIKE THE FLIP SIDE OF HER LOVE!
"THE SAME", YOU SAY?
WHICH PART...
YUP!
LET'S GO, GUYS!
WELL THEN,
WITHOUT FURTHER ADO
LET THE AUCTION BEGIN!

THE FIRST ITEM IS...
A CHARM AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS MADE IN IZU-RUHA
THE "ANTI-DEMON CHICKEN"
IT'S EYES ARE MADE UP OF DIAMONDS
PERSONALLY SPEAKING, THIS IS THE ONE I WOULDN'T WANT THE MOST...
STARTING BID... LET'S SEE... FIFTY THOUSAND?! WHOA, THAT IS CRAZY!
WE WILL START THE BID AT THIRTY THOUSAND...
THIRTY THOU-SAND...?!

WHY? WHAT'S THIS?
IT SUDDENLY GOT QUIET...
THIRTY THOUSAND

AH... UM, THIRTY THOUSAND.
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE... ANY OTHER BIDS
ERM...
TCH...
...DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
THIRTY THOUSAND.

FINE, SOLD!
THIRTY THOUSAND IT IS
.....
THIS WAY
THIRTY THOUSAND FOR THIS?
IF IT WERE TO ME, I WOULDN'T WANT THIS EVEN IF SOMEONE PAID ME TEN GRAND....

AH...
WHOA!
HEY!
ビッ
GEEZ,
THAT VEGETABLE GUY... WHAT WAS HE THINKING?
.....

IF IT WERE ME,
I WOULD'VE NEVER LET YOU END UP IN THIS KIND OF SITUA-TION
A...
ZIAN...
HARSH!!
YOUR ATTITUDE IS WAY TOO BLUNT, MARIA!

I thought he'd be more cool-headed like they say in the rumors...
AZIAN THE ONE FROM "LUNCHTIME"?
IS HE AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS, KATARI?
UHH... YEAH, WELL...
EVEN I CAN'T TELL IF HE'S A FRIEND OR A FOE...
I WAS BIDDING ON you...
FOR THIRTY THOUSAND? ISN'T THAT A BIT CHEAP?
I'M A PAIN IN THE ASS, SO DON'T ASK ME WHY I'M HERE
JUST HURRY UP. TAKE THE ITEM AND GO AWAY!
NEVERMIND THAT, MARIA, FOR I—
I DON'T HAVE A NEED FOR THIS WEIRD CHICKEN.

WH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU ROTTEN FISH?!
I'm not rotten! I'm still alive and well!
SORRY,
I'M JUST DOING MY JOB
VERY WELL THEN.
I JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE SOME THINGS TO DISCUSS WITH YOU, TOO.

SHALL WE GO OUT-SIDE?
Is that really him?
That's Azuan?
AMAZING
EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEING THROWN OUT, HE STILL MANAGES TO MAINTAIN THAT POMPOUS ATTI-TUDE OF HIS
HEY, YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU SPACING OUT FOR?!
GO GET THE NEXT ITEM! HURRY!
YES!
HUH.. HER HUSBAND
SO HE WAS HERE ALL ALONG
SO THAT'S WHY I CAN'T TELL YOU
I JUST CAN'T DISCLOSE ANYTHING ABOUT THOSE KIND OF STUFF

I'M DEALING WITH HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS EVERYDAY!
GRR...
COME ON, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL LOSE ANYTHING IF YOU TELL ME!
HEY NOW, HOW THE PAYMENT IS DIVIDED UP WITHIN "ZOO"
ISN'T SOME-THING THAT IS TALKED ABOUT OFTEN!
GRRR... THAT SUPER ANNOYING TOMATO-KUN...
HE'S LIVING THE LIFE IN A LUXURIOUS HOUSE,
WHILE MARIA AND I ARE LIVING IN RENTED HOUSES!
AND IN THE END UNABLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET AS A CRACKER, AND THUS FORCED TO DO PART TIME JOBS?!
UHH, ACTUALLY, THE PART TIME JOB WAS MY IDEA...
And in the middle of nowhere!

Really? I love you!
It's a special bonus!
Here's your share.
IF IT WERE ME
IN TOMITO-KUN'S POSITION...
ISN'T THAT IF YOU WERE IN HIS POSITION?
HURRY UP AND COME TO YOUR SENSES!

UHM...

AH...
I... IT'S YOU.
WAS IT JUST MY IMAGINA-TION ?
JUST NOW,
I THOUGHT I SAW HIM MAKE A MOTION AS IF HE WAS STEALING SOMETHING...
I DON'T MIND IF IT'S JUST YOUR OPINION...
!
.....
OUT OF THE ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED TODAY,
WHICH ONE WOULD YOU PAY THE MOST MONEY FOR?
HMM...
NORMALLY IN AN AUC-TION...

YOU'D EXPECT THAT THE ITEMS ARE ORDERED
IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE BEST IS SAVED FOR LAST...
MAYBE . THIS?
I MEAN, THE FIRST ITEM GOT A PRETTY HORRIBLE RECEPTION...
If not, then it's a pretty big problem for this event...
IN ALL HONESTY, EVERYTHING JUST SEEMS TO BE PIECES OF JUNK
YEAH, I THINK SO, TOO.
TO M—
!

IF YOU HAD JUST BEEN QUIET,
YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH JUST BEING KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS...
D'OH, I'M COMPLETELY UNARMED AGAIN!
IS THERE SOMETHING... ANYTHING
THAT I COULD USE AS A WEAPON?

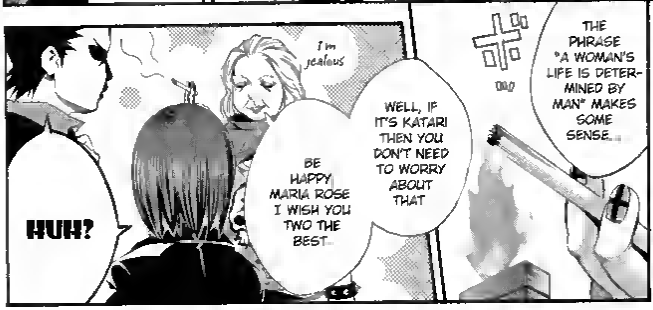
I'M USED TO .. STUFF LIKE THIS.
SORRY,
BUT I'M A CRACKER.
AH...
HUH?
CHANCE!
YOU'RE MINE!

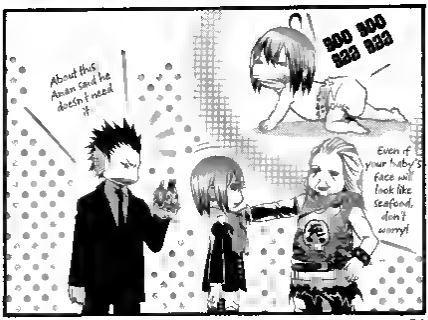
EHHHH?!
UH... UHM...
THIS IS...
I... I GOT ASKED WHAT SEEMED THE MOST EXPENSIVE...
WHEN I REPLIED... THAT I DIDN'T KNOW... SHE SUDDENLY...
WH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MARIA ROSE?!

THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE!
DON'T BE STUPID!
MARIA ISN'T THAT KIND OF PERSON!
KATAKI...
ALL HE HAS IS A GOOD FACE! BUT HE'S INNO-CENT!
IT'S TRUE THAT HE HAS A FOUL MOUTH AND A BAD PERSO-NALITY,
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE REAL SOUNDING EXTRA COMMENTS ...?!

GOD...
HIS FACE MAKES HIM LOOK LIKE HE'S A GOOD PERSON
BUT HE DOESN'T WORK,
AND ALL HE DOES IS DRINK, HIT, AND BUY!
?
?
?

HEEEY
ALL THE CUSTOMERS WENT HOME.
ARE YOU HURT AT ALL?
Because he'll just sell it off.
THIS IS THE REASON WHY I CAN'T TELL HIM THE VALUE OF EVERY-THING.
NO... RATHER THAN ME, TAKE A LOOK AT HIM...


I'm jealous
WELL, IF IT'S KATARI THEN YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT
BE HAPPY, MARIA ROSE I WISH YOU TWO THE BEST.
HUH?
DAD
THE PHRASE "A WOMAN'S LIFE IS DETER-MINED BY MAN" MAKES SOME SENSE...


BOO HOO BOO
About this Asian cand he doesn't need it
Even if your baby's face will look like seafood, don't worry!

WELL, AS THEY SAY,
"DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER"!
I DON'T NEED A LECTURE I'D HAVE BEEN HAPPIER WITH CASH...
WHEN DID IT START GOING WRONG YESTERDAY...
EVER SINCE AZIAN APPEARED, RIGHT?
WELL, THAT'S OK! LET'S MAKE HEAPS OF MONEY TODAY!
BLUE GRAVEL,
AND RED GRAVEL, AND...
WHAT'S WRONG, YURIKA?
You can have this.
WHEN I ARRIVED EARLIER, I FOUND THIS IN FRONT OF THE OFFICE...
TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

"RECOMMENDED RELATIVELY SAFE AND WELL PAID MISSION"...
Recommended Relatively Safe and Well Paid Mission
THIS HAND-WRITING!!!
SEX APPEAL

MEANWHILE, AT TOMATO-HUN'S PLACE...
"THE OPPOSITION OF THE EXPLOITATION BY THE MASTER"?
WHAT IS THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

IT'S A FINE WEATHER TODAY!
HOLDING ONTO A LOT OF ITEMS THAT WOULD PROVE TO BE ESSENTIAL IN OUR EXPEDITION
BUYING FOOD SUPPLIES...
ONWARD! LET'S GO TO THE UNDER-GROUND DUNGEON!
IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, BUT

FEELING THE ABSENCE OF THEIR TWO MAIN FIGHTERS,
OUR HEROES DRASTICALLY CHANGED THEIR PLANS
CURRENTLY, THERE ARE IN THE SEWERS,
MAKING BAIT FOR CRAYFISH FISHING
ちま
ちま

ON SECOND THOUGHT, CAN WE GO TO THE UNDER-GROUND DUNGEON INSTEAD?
BUT WE JUST GOT HERE!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT NOW; LET'S ALL BE MOTI-VATED!
WHAT KIND OF GUILD GOES HUNTING FOR CRAYFISH IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY...
TWO THOUSAND... AREN'T WE JUST BASING IT ON THAT PERVERT'S INFORMA-TION?
ARE YOU FINE WITH BELIEVING WHATEVER HE SAYS JUST LIKE THAT?
We're all out of Chikuwa and Crackers
EACH ONE IS WORTH TWO THOU-SAND! THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TWO DAYS OF FOOD EXPENSES!
Ra!!
CHU!!!
IT'S PROBABLY TRUE

*Chikuwa: Fish paste tube, a popular snack

WHEN I WENT SHOPPING WITH TOMATO-KUN
WANTED MONSTERS, HUH..
SEEMS LIKE A NUMBER OF THEM INCREASED A BIT
THIS ONE LOOKS QUITE STRONG AND RUTHLESS
?
Armored Crayfish
CRAY-FISH?
THE "ARMORED CRAYFISH"
IT'S A HIGH CLASS INGREDIENT FROM THE LAND OF RYUUSHUU THEY'RE VIOLENT IN NATURE
IT SHOULD BE ILLEGAL TO BRING THEM INTO ELDEN
鉄蟹甲殻
The body is tight, the meat is rich in flavour, and it has a distinct fragrance.

FOR THE PAST DAYS, THEY'VE BEEN BREEDING DOWN HERE IN THE SEWERS.
SO THEY'VE BEEN CLOGGING THE DRAINAGE OUTLETS AND IT'S TURNING QUITE A MESS
YOU MEAN THERE'S A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN SETTING THEM LOOSE DOWN HERE ON PURPOSE?
WELL, THAT IS IF WE CAN CATCH A HEAP OF THEM
HA HA HA...
TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST...
IT'S ALL GOOD! IF WE SUCCEED, WE'LL GET THANKED FOR EXTERMINATING THEM!
AND WE'LL ALSO MAKE A GOOD PROFIT OUT OF IT!
IT'S LIKE KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!

I DIDN'T HAVE A VERY GOOD CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE.
SO... I'VE ACTUALLY ALWAYS WANTED TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
LIKE, YOU KNOW, JUST BEING WITH PEOPLE WHO I GET ALONG WITH FINE,
AND CATCHING CRAYFISH OR BUGS AND OTHER STUFF LIKE THAT,
AND THEN STAYING OUT UNTIL THE SUN SETS BEYOND THE HORIZON...
WHAT AM I DOING, I'M GETTING ALL EMOTIONAL!
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
KATARI LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T A WORRY IN THE WORLD.

Books are my only friends!
BUT HE COULD BE A PRINCE WHO GOT IMPRISONED IN HIS OWN ROOM
HE MUST HAVE GONE THROUGH A LOT
.....
HM...
YOUR CHIKUWA* IS BEING EATEN...
WHOA!
CHU!
FU...
AHA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!!
DAMN YOU, GIVE ME BACK MY CHI-KUWA...! HEY!!!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE LAUGHING A BIT TOO MUCH?!
A sadist?! Are you a sadist?!
YOU LOT ARE SO NOISY...

*Chikuwa - as mentioned before - it's similar to fish sticks, made with fish paste and hollow inside, and is a snack in several parts of Japan. In this case they're using it as bait

YOU'RE GOING TO SCARE OFF THE PREY.

THERE'S NOTHING MORE UNBEARABLE IN THIS WORLD THAN
THE SOUND OF STUPID LAUGHTER BORED PEOPLE MAKE
A KID?!
HE SEEMS FAMILIAR
!

OH, LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE HERE.
IT'S THE PEOPLE FROM "ZOO".
LOOKS LIKE I'VE...
FOUND A WAY TO KILL SOME TIME!
THAT'S RIGHT! THIS VOICE—
THE GUILD SERIAL KILLERS'...

*The kanji for this name means "flying swallow"

OH
YOU SURE ARE FAST, MISTER PIMPER!
HEY!
IS SUDDENLY PUNCHING PEOPLE YOUR GUILD'S WAY OF SAYING "HI" OR SOMETHING?!
AH? YOU'RE MARIA ROSE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
SORRY, MY BAD, YOUR BODY WAS GIVING OFF A PUNCHING BAG-LIKE AURA
FEIYAN!
SERIOUSLY, YOU...
YUIRI!

IT'S NOT "YURI"...
IT'S "YURIKA"!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE NAME "YURI"?
AND WHAT'RE YOU DOING DOWN HERE IN THE SEWERS?
OH...

AH... THE HALF-FISH GUY.
Don't tell me you guys are actually becoming cannibals?
Ghu!
THE BAIT'S NOT FOR ME! IT'S FOR THE CRAYFISH, FOOL!
HA!
WHAT A CRUDE BOXED LUNCH...
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A HARD TIME LOOKING FOR A HUSBAND WITH THAT.
H...
HOW RUDE! THIS IS BAIT!

TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT TOO KEEN ON DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE
CONCEITED AND UTTERLY INDIFFERENT LIKE AZIAN
CRAY-FISH? HMM...
SO YOU GUYS ARE AFTER THE ARMORED CRAY-FISH, TOO.
OH, SO EVEN THE SERIAL KILLERS ARE CRAYFISH HUNTING...
WERE YOU GUYS BORED OR SOME-THING?
I INVITED THE GUYS FROM THE GUILD,
BUT ALL OF THEM WERE ALL SUCH KILL-JOYS
LET'S GO, KYOU! I'LL GIVE YOU A CRAY FISH LEG!
NO THANKS.
CRU!
AH, YOU THIEF!
NO WAY! I'M ACTING BY MYSELF.
THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE NOR-MALLY SPEAK-ING...
AH WELL, PERFECT TIMING!

I WAS ALL ALONE AND ABOUT TO DIE FROM BOREDOM,
SO I'LL HAVE YOU GUYS HANG OUT WITH ME ALL DAY!
WHAT'S UP WITH HIS CONDESCENDING WAY OF JOINING US?!

WHAT?! YOU CAN'T JUST—
FOR STARTERS, ISN'T THE BAIT YOU'RE USING KINDA WEIRD?
THEIR FAVORITE FOOD IS DRIED SQUID!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA CATCH ANY WITH THE CHIKUWA YOU GUYS HAVE!
Here I'll even spec ally give you one!

THIS IS GOING TO SEEM LIKE A REALLY LONG DAY.
LET'S WORK HARD...
JUST BEAR WITH IT FOR TODAY.
AH! IT'S TRUE!
THEY'RE REALLY THERE!
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU! THEY LIKE TO HIDE IN THESE KIND OF HOLES.
EVEN IF YOU PUT OUT FISHING LINES, YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ANY!

HMMM...
IF YOU DON'T HOLD IT THIS WAY YOU'LL GET YOUR FINGERS CUT.
AND THEN YOU LURE THEM WITH DRIED SQUID... LIKE THIS!
YOU SURE ARE GOOD AT THIS!
THAT'S BECAUSE I WAS RAISED IN RYUU-SHUU.
OVER THERE, THE FIRST THING PARENTS TEACH YOU IS HOW TO CATCH THINGS LIKE THIS
IS THAT SO...
THAT WAS A LIE DUMB-ASS
LOOKS LIKE...
WE CAN ONLY GET MALES
If even has hair on its chest

もぞ
YOU CAN HAVE IT.
もぞ
I'VE NO USE FOR MALES.
ARE FEMALES BETTER?
THOSE GUYS ARE THE SAME AS ANTS
EVERYONE OTHER THAN THE QUEEN IS MALE.
THE MALES ARE DELICIOUS, TOO, BUT NOWHERE NEAR AS GOOD AS FEMALES.
THE FEMALES ARE EXTREMELY RARE.
EVEN THE PEOPLE IN RYUUSHUU HARDLY EVER GET THEIR HANDS ON THEM.

...TO BE HONEST, I'VE NEVER EATEN ONE MYSELF—
THE FEMALE ARMORED WHAT-EVER.
ARE THEY REALLY THAT RARE?
THAT'S WHY I RESORTED TO THE BLACK MARKET IN RYUU-SHUU,
AND I FINALLY MANAGED TO GET ONE
I EVEN MARKED IT AS MINE,
TO MAKE SURE THAT IT DOESN'T GET EATEN BY SOMEONE ELSE

JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO MAKE IT INTO A SNACK*,
I WAS BOILING THE WATER
WHEN IT CUT THE ROPE AND ESCAPED!
IT RAN ALL AROUND THE ROOM,
SNACK*
THAT WOULD MAKE THE MAIN DISH ALCOHOL?!
AND IN FRONT OF MY EYES,
IT DIVED DOWN INTO THE DRAIN!
JUST HOW OLD IS THIS KID...
CAN YOU EVEN EAT THE ONES CAUGHT DOWN HERE?

*Note here that snack was termed *tsumima*, which means a particularly rare/hard-to-find snack eaten with alcohol

THAT HAPPENED AROUND TWO MONTHS AGO.
I WAS SO PISSED, SO I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE I CAN CATCH IT HERE AND THEN I'LL EAT IT
....DON'T TELL ME
THAT FEMALE WAS CARRYING EGGS?
THAT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT?
Well I haven't actually eaten it before though...
So good so good!!
THE EGGS ARE DELICIOUS, I KNOW THEY ARE!
UMM, FEIYAN
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR DRAIN COMES OUT IN THE SEWERS?

NO CLUE.
WHO CARES
EH?!
ISN'T THAT ?
THIS THING IS PUMPING WATER!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING PUMPING SEWER WATER...
WHERE IS THIS HOSE CONNECTED TO?

LET'S GO, YURI!
KYA!
HMM...?
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT IT'S SUSPICIOUS!
AH... WAI—... DON'T JUST...!
THIS IS THE SEWERS! IF IT WAS A BROWNINGS* HOUSE, IT WOULD BE TROUBLESOME!
AH, GEEZ! WHY DO I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER THEM LIKE THIS...
WHOA, AWESOME!

*Kanji for Brownings mean brown rat race

*Corf a place to keep living fishes and crustaceans

Pimp, gimme the bag, the bag!!!
YAY! WE CAN GET AS MANY AS WE WANT!
DON'T!
THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE HAS BEEN LIVING HERE!
OUCH, THAT HURTS!
TAKE IT OFF!!! HURRY UP AND TAKE IT OFF, PIMP!
ARE ARE THEY RAISING THEM?
IT SEEMS THESE GUYS HAVE AN AWFULLY LARGE AMOUNT OF FREEDOM
OR RATHER THIS PLACE HAS BECOME THEIR HABITAT.

GEEZ, JUST MY LUCK
THEY'RE ALL MALES.
WHAT'S THIS? THERE'S A SEPARATE FISH TANK OVER HERE...
HEY... ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE
HUH?
WHEN YOU MARKED IT AS "YOURS", YOU DIDN'T MEAN

AHHHHH!!! THAT'S MY ARMORED CRAYFISH!
THAT YOU LITERALLY WROTE YOUR NAME DID YOU?

THEY PROBABLY ALL HATCHED
NOT TO MENTION THERE'S NOT A SINGLE EGG LEFT!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING RAISING IT?!

DAMN YOU, THIS TIME, I'LL SINK YOU TO THE BOTTOM OF A POT FOR SURE!
We're going home!
ボス
HUHP IF THEY ARE SIMILAR TO ANTS
AND THIS IS THE ONLY FEMALE... THEN THAT WOULD MEAN...
IF WE CATCH THIS ONE
THERE WON'T BE ANYMORE RISK OF THEIR NUMBERS INCREASING?
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE FINISHED THE JOB!
WE TOTALLY SOLVED IT, SO I WONDER IF WE'LL GET A BONUS AT *ALPHA*?
Ss...solve... There's no... case...

*Name of an organization

The C-c-c... case just happened
P-, Pet theives found...
I-I-Intruders... W-w-what are... you doing?
EH? AH... PET...
PET?!
YOU SURE CAN TALK!
THIS IS MINE!
HAHA... HE CALLED US INTRUDERS!
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT WE ARE KINDA INTRUDING...
DON'T JOKE, KATARI!!
Delicious, delicious!
I picked t-t-t-that up to..
B-b-breed... e-e-eat

A BROWNING...?
WILL HE UNDERSTAND IF I TALK TO HIM?
NO, IF YOU'RE KEEPING IT TO EAT IT,
THEN IT'S NOT A "PET" YOU'RE JUST RAISING IT...
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAME HERE TO
STEAL—
!
WHOA! HE SMELLS LIKE HE HASN'T BEEN ANYWHERE NEAR A BATH OR A SHOWER...!!!
DON'T PUT YOUR FACE ANY CLOSER, IT'S DIRTY, IT REEKS, THIS IS THE WORST—!
L-L-
Leave...

AH...
AH...
STO—
WAH—

WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY DO THAT?!
Y... You are small... Cute...
MARIA!!
YUR!!!!
Make you.. new pet
Will you be?
TSU SHU SHU SHU SHU SHU SHU SHU
Y-Y-Y-You all leave now..
JUST A MINUTE, YOU!

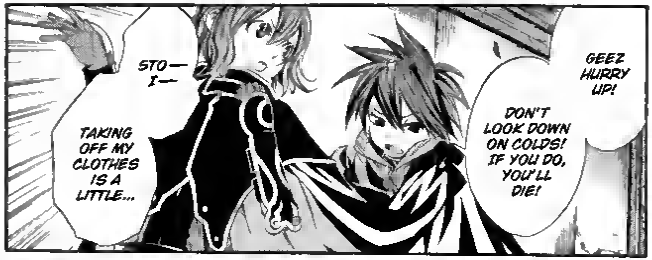
ARGH!
AS IF
I'D WANT TO BE KEPT BY A RAT!!!
UGH...
COUGH...

UGH...
EAT THIS!
MARSH-MALLOW EXPLO-SION!!!
FUCK! THAT DAMN RAT...
I'M DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO FORGIVE YOU!!!
!!

Help me get out Mana Zuka
Ah the en trance
WHA—?!

AS MARIA'S KNIGHT,
TO HAVE MISREAD MY CHANCE TO APPEAR...
IT'S THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF A LIFETIME.....
AH!! HOW IRRITATING.
THE CAUSE OF THIS IS YOU, RIGHT?
CHEER UP OR FINISH YOURSELF OFF! EITHER WAY, TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS!
As a living being, you should take it all to the end!
EVEN IF YOU SUDDENLY APPEAR AND GET ALL SAD...
IT'S JUST HIM GETTING ALL WORKED UP BY HIMSELF.
ACHOO!
WHOA THERE!
YOU HAVE A COLD? GET AWAY! DON'T YOU DARE CONTAMINATE ME!
MARIA ...!!!
フェフェフェフェッ...

COME, MARIA!
NO NEED TO BE RESERVED, COME INSIDE THE MANTLE!
I'LL HEAL YOU LIKE A MARSUPIAL MOTHER!
ALL YOUR ILLNESS WILL BE—
IF YOU STAY WET LIKE THAT, YOU'LL REALLY CATCH A COLD.
TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES, MARIA
EH?!


GEEZ HURRY UP!
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON COLDS! IF YOU DO, YOU'LL DIE!
STO— I—
TAKING OFF MY CLOTHES IS A LITTLE...

?!
AH
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE...
ACTUALLY A FEMALE?
NO...!!!
I'M NOT A GIRL!

HEY, STOP IT...
OK, YOU SAID SO!
IF YOU HAVE BOOBS OR ANYTHING, I'M GONNA RIP THEM OFF!
I'M TELLING YOU... AZIAN IS HERE TOO!
I JUST DON'T WANT TO TAKE OFF MY CLOTHES!
STOP—
OUCH!!!
I DON'T APPRECIATE YOU BEING SO FORCEFUL.
FOR NOW, I CAN GUARANTEE YOU THAT HE HAS NO BOOBS

WELL, NOT THAT IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME
WHETHER MARIA HAS A FLAT CHEST, LARGE BOOBS, A FEMALE OR A MALE,
I ACKNOWLEDGE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.
.....
... SAY IT TO YOURSELF!
PERVERT!
MAAAN!

EH? B-BUT...
ARGH, I'VE HAD ENOUGH! YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL!
IT'S FINE, JUST TAKE IT!
IN THE END, IT HAD NO EGGS
I SEE SO...
IT TURNED OUT TO BE QUITE A GOOD HARVEST
I CAN UNDER-STAND
BUT...
THIS FEMALE...
YES

JUST WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH IT?
You aren't going to keep it here?
EVERONE KEPT SAYING IT WAS RARE SO...
The blood of my inner rare hunter
It's smelly...
UMM...
HOW ABOUT MAKING SOME INK PRINTS OUT OF IT.
By the way where is Master Rose?
Ah... you see about that...
AH...
TO THINK THAT I'D ACTUALLY CATCH A COLD...
IT'S A PAIN TO RETURN AZIAN'S CLOTHES.
I WONDER IF HE'D TAKE IT HIMSELF IF I HUNG IT OUTSIDE...

chapter.7 Silly Love Song (First Part)

NOW THEN—
WITH THIS, EVEN AZIAN SHOULD NOTICE, RIGHT?
THREE WHOLE DAYS AFTER THE CRAYFISH HUNTING—

I STAYED IN BED WITH A COLD
Ah...
はー
はー
If only we didn't listen to Azian, that pervert's information...
I wouldn't be in this situation...
MY JOINTS STILL HURT. BUT...
I'M ALL OUT OF FOOD
Uwa
Rat food?
AZIAN'S COAT...
SHOPPING, SHOPPING HMMM
.....

AH, THE ORANGES ARE CHEAP
I GET THE FEELING I'M GOING TO BE PUNISHED
SO...
I acknowledge everything about you
I CAN JUST RETURN IT TO HIM IF I SEE HIM, BUT
EVERY SINGLE THING HE DOES IS EMBARRASSING!
JUST TALKING WITH HIM MAKES ME TIRED!
IF I'M TIRED, I WON'T EVER RECOVER FROM THIS COLD!

WELL... YEAH...
IT IS A COLD...
THEN YOU'VE GOT TO GET SOME NUTRIENTS
YOU LOOK FLUSTERED YOUR WHOLE FACE IS RED
HAVE YOU GOT A COLD?
N... NO THIS IS UMM...
無花果
UMM...
I'LL THROW IN SOME LEMONS AND APPLES FOR YOU
YOU HAVE TO BUY 5 APPLES THOUGH, WHAT DO YOU SAY?
THEN... I GUESS I'LL TAKE IT
THANK YOU
JUST WAIT, I'LL WRAP IT UP FOR YOU NOW

AH, THE MINSTREL?
THAT'S "EVERY TIME LOVE"...
IT'S QUITE POPULAR NOWADAYS EVERYONE'S INTO IT
DO YOU NEED TO BE APPRECIATED?
YOU TELL ME THAT
YOU DON'T APPRECIATE ME.
WHOA...
IT'S A MINSTREL
INSTEAD OF BREATHING, I TAKE IN...
LOVE.

I WANT TO FEEL IT WITH ALL MY ORGANS
WHEN I TOUCH YOUR SHOULDER
THE GLOVES ARE IN THE WAY. THE CLOTHES ARE IN THE WAY.
NOW, ALL THE MINSTRELS SEEM TO BE SINGING THIS SONG
THAT TONE
FOR A SECOND THERE, I THOUGHT IT WAS AZIAN
YEAH
IT HAS A NICE MELODY, THOUGH

BUT THE LYRICS ARE THE WORST.
IS THIS SONG REALLY POPULAR AT THE MOMENT?
AREN'T ALL THE POPULAR SONGS NOW SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

I WANT TO BE WRAPPED IN YOUR CLOTHES!
AND AT TIMES WRAPPED UP IN YOUR ARMS!

IT SEEMS SO STALKER-ISH.
AREN'T ALL THE PEOPLE WHO CAN EMPATHIZE WITH THIS SONG A BIT DANGE-ROUS?
YOU SURE SAY SOME HARSH THINGS DESPITE THAT PRETTY FACE OF YOURS

UWAAA!! I DON'T FEEL THE SAME WAY!!!
HEY.... WAS THE CHANGE DIFFERENT TO WHAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN?
IT'S NOT DIFFE-RENT, IT'S RIGHT!
WRA...
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I SAW YOU AT A GOOD TIME...
ARE YOU SEEING ILLUSIONS BECAUSE OF YOUR COLD MEDI-CINE?
HE...
AH.. HA... KATARI...

YOU HAVEN'T COME TO THE OFFICE IN DAYS SO EVERYONE WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU
TH THANKS
HERE! A "GET WELL SOON" GIFT...
ARE YOU ALREADY WELL ENOUGH TO BE WALKING AROUND THE PLACE?

The food will be ready soon!
I'm hungry!
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT LIVING TOGETHER WITH A STALKER?
He'd probably totally devote himself to serving you
He'll do anything for you so you don't have to do anything.
I'D LIKE TO LAUGH AT THAT, BUT...
That's a hopeless person.
I DON'T HAVE ANY ENERGY TO SPARE AT THE MOMENT...
MM... I'M NOT COMPLETELY BETTER, BUT...
I'M TOTALLY OUT OF FOOD
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE OUT SHOPPING... LIVING ALONE SURE IS TOUGH.

EVERY-ONE AT ZOO DECIDED TO POOL THEIR MONEY.
BUT I'M A BIT LOST AS TO WHAT TO DO WITH IT
MORE IMPORTANTLY, THIS BIG IS RE LLY HEAVY...
WHAT IS IT...?
AH... THAT!

WELL, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
MY "GET WELL SOON" GIFT GIVING TECH-NIQUE!
UMM... THIS IS
A LEEK... AND GINGER?

You like sweet things right?
SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU VERY SWEATY
AND SOMETHING EASY ON THE THROAT! PUDDING!
EH, PUDDING?!
It doesn't smell fishy!
WHICH FIELD DID YOU DIG THIS FROM?
I DIDN'T DIG IT! I BOUGHT IT!
Cough!
WHEN YOU CATCH A COLD,
YOU FEEL REALLY LONELY AND HELPLESS, RIGHT?
AND START REMEMBERING BAD THINGS FROM THE PAST, DON'T YOU?
it's Bucket Pudding!

That's why you counter it with a happy thought!
One day,
I'll eat until I'm stuffed!
Everyone's dreamed of this at one point in their life! Pro baby!
With "Bucket Pudding" you can finally fulfil the dream!
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
But my house is on the rooftop!
... IT'S "HEAVY"
"HEAVY"! ANYTHING ELSE?
.....
"What the hell is this half fish man doing with everyone's hard earned money!"
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT MONEY! JUST LOOK AT THE LID.

IT'S ALMOST EXPIRED, SO IT WAS 90% OFF.
90% OFF
FINISH IT BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY!
THIS FAMILY SIZED PUDDING
BY MYSELF BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY?

INCI-DENTALLY, IT'S PRODUCT NAME IS THE "STEPS TO ADULT-HOOD"
I have no clue why, though.
FUUUN HOW POETIC

HMMM.
I THOUGHT I'D INVITE YOU TO DO A JOB IF YOU WERE BETTER, BUT...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STILL NOT IN GREAT SHAPE.
A JOB? WHAT KIND?

AZIAN ...!
THIS ONE'S RELATED TO RARE HUNTERS, TOO, BUT
THE MARRIAGE PARTY, SAKURA
They're looking for pretty people
THAT'S UNFOR-GIVE-ABLE!!!
AS A CRACKER, IT WOULD BE FINE TO DIVE UNDER-GROUND...

HERE COMES THE START OF A HEADACHE...
MY COLLECTOR FRIENDS ARE ALL LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!!!
BUT A MARRIAGE PARTY FULL OF MANIAS IS JUST UNSEEMLY!!!
HUH?
AZIAN... THAT...
THAT MANTLE...
AH
YOU NOTICED? AS EXPECTED OF MARIA

YOU ALREADY WENT AND TOOK IT FROM MY HOUSE?
YOU SURE MOVE FAST

THE CLOTHES ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT!
THEY'RE PROBABLY NEW!
AH... BUT THE COLOR WAS THE SAME, SO...
STOP! DON'T SAY ANYMORE!
He's already about to die!

Bike! Let's go

EH? WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION?
DID I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD?
IDIOT! LOOK CAREFULLY!

FU... THAT'S FINE.
HERE'S A "GET WELL SOON" PRESENT FOR YOU.
HE COULDN'T TOTALLY IGNORE IT HE STILL HAS TEARY EYES.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE A COUPLE THAT JUST STARTED GOING OUT.
YOU'RE JUST A NARROW-MINDED MAN
SHUT UP, YOU FISH!!!
THEN WHAT ARE THOSE WATER DROPLETS ON THE CORNER OF YOUR EYES?!
THEY'RE THE CRYSTALLIZATION OF THE SORROW OF MY HEART, IDIOT!
PEOPLE ORDINARILY CALL THOSE "TEARS"!!!
MY HEAD HURTS

NOT TO MENTION MY ARM IS HEAVY...
UGH...
MARIA...
MARIA?!

NN
I'M FINE.
THE BAG WAS JUST A BIT...
HE, VY...
SO, I GOT A LITTLE DIZZY...
"WHEN I TOUCH YOUR SHOULDER,
THE GLOVES ARE IN THE WAY. THE CLOTHES ARE IN THE WAY"

YA!
AH...
UMM...
IT WOULD BE BAD IF YOU CAUGHT MY COLD...

I'VE GOT TO GO HOME...
SO...
AH... I KNOW!
40% off
AZIAN! YOU CAN HAVE THIS AS A THANK YOU FOR LENDING ME THE MANTLE

WELL...
MA...
BYE BYE! BOTH OF YOU!
MARIA ROSE...
WHY A MASSIVE PUDDING?
I've got to review my technique!
WHOA! HE DIDN'T REALLY WANT IT!
Are you sure there's something like that?
IS THERE A SECRET MEANING TO THIS?
"90% OFF"
90% OF

HU...
"HURRY UP AND EAT (ME)" ...?!

貸店舗
WH... WHAT KIND OF INTER-PRETATION WAS THAT...
I'LL CALL THIS THE POWER OF BEING POSITIVE
Ah, sad. I'm sorry, back!
How bold.

HAAA...
I'M MORE TIRED THAN I IMAGINED...
THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO MEET HIM.

I'LL TAKE A BIT OF A BREAK...
TO GO HOME AND SLEEP
MMM...
THE GINGER THAT KATARI GAVE ME

EVEN THROUGH THE BAG, IT SMELLS SO NICE
IT MUST REALLY BE HIGH QUALITY GINGER
HE'S QUITE A PICKY GUY, AFTER ALL

I'LL USE THE LEEK HE GAVE ME TO MAKE A MEDLEY SOUP.
AND I CAN USE THE GINGER AND BLACK TEA TO MAKE GINGER TEA
I should still have some black tea that Yurika gave me.
HEY, COME ON, HURRY!
ITS ABOUT TO START!
FOR SOME REASON MY EYES FEEL IRRI-TATED
HOT
MY FEVER MIGHT HAVE GONE UP AGAIN

I DON'T PARTICULARLY MIND...
"EVERY TIME LOVE".
THAT SONG ISN'T REALLY WELL-RECEIVED ANYWAY.
BUT YOU CAN HEAR THE ORIGINAL LIVE IN PERSON

THE LYRICS ARE ROMANTIC, AREN'T THEY?
THAT SONG WHICH REEKS OF AZIAN
IT REALLY IS FOFULAR

THE ORIGIN OF THE CRAZY SONG...
.....
I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A LOOK
AT THE WRITER'S IDIOTIC FACE...
REALLY?
DOESN'T THE WEIRD POEM KILL THE MELODY LINE?
AHAHA
I FEEL THE SAME WAY...

WOW... IT'S JUST LIKE I IMAGINED!
A PHONY LOOKING MUSICIAN...!!!
HE SEEMS SO NARCISSISTIC.
THANK GOD WE MADE IT.

INSTEAD OF BREATHING,
I TAKE IN...
AH... IT'S A SURPRISINGLY GOOD VOICE

I LOVE YOU.
"AS LIGHT AS A FEATHER," YOU SAY.
AT TIMES YOU SAY, "IT'S TOO HEAVY",
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO LIGHT OR HEAVY WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE.
AN IMPRESSIVE MELODY...
THE SONG IS GOOD. BUT...
THE LYRICS SEEM OFF
IT REEKS OF AZIAN...
HOW HEARTLESS, MY SWEETHEART!
AH, LOOK, IT'S EXPRESSIONS LIKE THAT
WHICH GIVE ME THE SHIVERS
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY...

I'VE HEARD THIS SOMEWHERE
NO!
IS IT AZIAN HIMSELF?!
I WANT TO SYNTHESIZE YOUR FRAGRANCES TO CREATE A NEW ONE
THAT PHRASE,
YOUR EXISTENCE, I WANT TO GRASP IT WITH MY TASTEBUDS OF SMELL

MORE LIKE "SEEN" THIS SOMEWHERE!
ISN'T IT A BIT WEIRD?
THAT'S AZIAN'S...
POETRY BOOK
"Love Max"?
極・限・系

YES... THE RED KID
HUH? ME?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
YOU...
HUH?!
IS THERE SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A "POETRY BOOK".
UMM... MY STALK PERV... LIH, ACQUAINTANCE...
HAS A SIMILAR SENSE OF LANGUAGE AS YOU.
HM?
I SEE
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU...

...THINK I'M COPYING SOMEONE ELSE?
MAKING SUCH A COLD SONG BECOME POPULAR,
AND BEING A COPYCAT ON TOP OF THAT WOULD MAKE YOU THE COLDEST PERSON ON EARTH, WOULDN'T IT?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR PROOF, THEN IT'S IN MY
WHAT...
THIS GUY IS DISGUSTING!
I WASN'T PARTICULARLY
SAYING ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
WHAT DID YOU...
YOU INSULTED ME WITHOUT PROOF!!!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A BIT WHITE SO YOU'RE DORAN!
YOU'RE...
JINWAN.
HOW WORTH-LESS.

YOU...
TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF A POPULAR SONGWRITER LIKE ME...
DO NOT THINK YOU'LL GET OFF THE HOOK EASILY!

THOUGH I LOOK LIKE THIS, I HAVE ACQUAINTANCES IN SOME NASTY ORGANIZATIONS.
EVEN YOU'VE HEARD OF THEM TOO, RIGHT? THE "RYUUSHUU ALLIANCE"!
ESPECIALLY YOU THERE
WATCH OUT WHERE YOU'RE WALKING AT NIGHT...

NASTY ORGANIZATION "RYUUSHUU ALLIANCE"...
DOES HE MEAN THE ORGANIZATION I'M IN CHARGE OF?
THE OTHER TOP WAS FEIYAN, RIGHT?
IT SEEMS LIKE FEIYAN HAS BEEN CAUSING YOU A BIT OF TROUBLE
AH, WELL..
IT ANYONE'S GOING TO GO MISSING AT NIGHT, IT WOULD BE THAT GUY, NOT YOU
THAT GUY... I'LL SHOW HIM PROOF AND GET HIM TO STOP SINGING FOR GOOD!
.....
HEY..

"THANKS, YOU SAVED ME."
THAT'S ALL I'M GOING TO SAY
.....
I DON'T NEED YOUR THANKS.

I WANT YOU AND YOUR BEAUTIFUL
TEETH.
THIS GUY'S A PERVERT, TOO!!!

TAKE THEM OUT.
ALL OF THEM!
WH...
WHO THE HELL'S GOING TO LET YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT... AS PAINFUL AS POSSIBLE!
I WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE TWISTED IN AGONY.
LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAY-ING!!!
WHAT KIND OF WARPED LOGIC IS THAT?!
NO WAY
IF I COLLAPSE IN FRONT OF SOMEONE LIKE HIM...

DEN-
TURES!!!
NO...
WHAT...
PROOF...
POETRY
BOOK
I'VE GOT
TO... GO
GET IT...

.....
A CHANCE
TO TAKE OUT
AS MANY
TEETH AS
I WANT...
BUT
TAKING THEM
OUT OF SOME-
ONE WHO
DOESN'T
RESIST
IS...
not
understanding

Chapter 8 SILLY LOVE SONG (Second Part)

MARIA ROSE.
I LOVE YOUR SCENT..
AH, HOW ANNOYING.
YOU PERVERT
BUT, I CAN'T TAKE YOU TODAY.
HUH? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I SMELL?
ON TOP OF YOUR USUAL SMELL,
THERE'S A MANLY FRAGRANCE THAT IS ATTACKING MY NOSE...

THAT'S A LIE..
WHO WOULD... SMELL LIKE A DURIAN?
IT KIND OF SMELLS LIKE A DURIAN...
The vivid smell of a gutter
HEY!
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

FEIYAN?
SORRY,
WERE THE RESTRAINTS TOO TIGHT?
HUH? RESTRAINTS?
WHAT... WHAT IS THIS?
IF I RECALL I MET A WEIRD MINSTREL
AND HIS LYRICS WERE CLEARLY A COPY OF AZIAN'S...
THAT'S RIGHT WHEN I WAS GOING BACK HOME...
TO GET PROOF I GOT DIZZY AND...

I WANT YOUR TEETH.
!!!
MY TEETH!
GEEZ, DON'T SUPRISE ME.
They're still there.
HUH?!
EAT THIS FOR NOW!

That has got to be a really regional rule.
WHEN IT COMES TO COLDS, IT HAS TO BE BUNNY SHAPED.
IS THAT SO...

An apple cut to look like a fried shrimp?
WHAT'S THIS?
Can't you tell by looking? It's a bunny. A bunny!

SO THIS IS WHAT THE SMELL WAS!
ムフ
AND WRAPPING LEEKS AROUND YOUR NECK, OF COURSE!

MORE IMPORTANTLY,
WHERE AM I?

WELL, IN THE INTERESTS OR PREVENTING CRIME I CAN'T TELL YOU WHERE THIS IS
JIN CARRIED YOU OVER HERE ABOUT THREE HOURS AGO
TOLD ME TO LET YOU SLEEP FOR A WHILE HOW TROUBLESOME
HUH? ALL THESE QUESTIONS OF WHERE AND WHO
WHAT'S WRONG, DO YOU HAVE AMNESIA OR SOMETHING?
NO... THAT'S NOT IT
THAT JINWAN DID WITHOUT TAKING MY TEETH?!
IF YOU DON'T EAT, YOUR COLD ISN'T GOING TO GET BETTER

YURI WOULD BE SAD
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU, BUT
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU,
THAT SONG...
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES ME REMEMBER AZIAN AND I FEEL SICK ALL OVER AGAIN
EVEN SO...
HMMM...
"YURI"... HUH...
IT FEELS KIND OF...
WEIRD...
I love you!
Hurry and resuscitate him!!
Died from laughing
It's not good to laugh at someone's serious feelings!
It's a good song!
AND IF THE GUYS AT ZOO EVER HEARD IT

IT'S COMBINED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE POT!
DID YOU MAKE THIS DISH, FEIYAN?
...I TOLD YOU TO STIR IT ONCE EVERY TEN MINUTES DIDN'T I?
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING?
FEIYAN!

I CAN'T REMEMBER ALL OF THE SMALL DETAILS
DON'T SNEAK IN LIKE THAT, JIN
WELL... IT LOOKS LIKE
YOU'VE RECOVERED QUITE A BIT.

THANKS TO YOU
MY BODY CERTAINLY FEELS LIGHT
IT FEELS AS IF THE FEVER LEFT AS QUICKLY AS IT CAME
IF IT DIDN'T, IT WOULD BE TROUBLE-SOME FOR ME
I TAKE PLEASURE IN YOUR ANGUISHED EXPRES-SIONS.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOU IF YOU DON'T RESIST
HA?
WHICH IS WHY YOU HELPED ME HUH—
YOU'RE THE WORST
YOU'RE TRULY A GENUINE SADIST
JIN.

DON'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD TO HIM
EVEN IF IT'S YOU, JIN, I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH IT
.....

FOR ONLY TODAY, HUH
UNDER-STOOD
FOR TODAY
I'LL HEAD HOME FIRST
IS IT ALRIGHT FOR ME TO LEAVE?
YOU GUYS SAVED ME, BUT
I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO
極・肥・愛
コン

HEY, JIN.
MAKE SURE YOU THROW HIM BACK WHERE YOU GOT HIM FROM.
YEAH
YOUR TURF IS...
THE AREA AROUND DISTRICT 911, RIGHT? I KNOW THE ROADS, TOO.
DON'T GO PICKING UP ANY MORE LIVING THINGS AS YOU PLEASE!
YEAH, YEAH.
WHAT? AM I A STRAY CAT?
SORRY. BUT THAT WOULD BE TROUBLING FOR US.

AH...
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE CONNECTIONS BECAUSE I WANT TO...
WELL, THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.
DON'T THINK BADLY OF US.
EH...?
"BADLY"?
WE'RE ALSO THE LEADERS OF A GUILD.
LETTING OUTSIDERS KNOW OUR LOCATION ISN'T WISE
PLUS, YOU HAVE CONNECTIONS WITH THE HEAD OF ANOTHER GUILD.

WHAT DO...
I "WON'T LET YOU GO"?
NO, IT'S I "CAN'T LET YOU GO"
AH
IT'S THAT SONG AGAIN

IT REMINDS ME OF AZIAN
THESE LYRICS
HEY WAIT! THIS VOICE!
BRIDAL STYLE!
TH- THIS IS HUMILIA-TING!!!
LET ME DOWN!!!
IT'S NOT THAT I "WON'T LET YOU GO", RATHER I "CAN'T LET YOU GO"!
THAT COPYCAT MINSTREL!

I FIRST THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS A BORING SONG. BUT...
I SEE SO THIS IS HOW IT FEELS.
DON'T EMPATHIZE WITH THE SONG! PUT ME DOWN!
SORRY, BUT I'M IN A HURRY.
BYE!
THAT MINSTREL HE JUST DOESN'T LEARN!
I WANT TO SHUT HIM UP RIGHT NOW BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE.
EVEN SO, I'LL SAY IT, "I LOVE YOU!"

WILL I MAKE IT?
I'LL GO HOME AND GET THE COLLECTION OF POEMS
THE PARK FROM BEFORE
YES, YOU ARE AN ADAMAS DIAMOND!
RUBY COLORED HAIR~
EYES LIKE FIRE OPALS~
HE'S THERE!
RUBY COLORED HAIR
EYES LIKE FIRE OPALS.

I'VE GOT TO STOP IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!
DIAMOND?
That girl has ruby colored hair!
"ADAMAS"
Do they mean "Unassailable"? Nuh! Together yet! Huh! Ahahahaha good luck!
So that's the model! Lucky fellow...
There really's someone who's of that color.
Yay! Shine Da-mond!
THOSE MAPOU OU AGE LIKE CLOTHES
LIKE I'LL STAND FOR BEING CALLED RIDICULOUS NAMES!
IF THIS SONG GETS ANY MORE POPULAR,
I WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO SHOW MY FACE AROUND TOW—

* Unassailable - same kanji which they overrode with katakana earlier. It's the same as "Adamas".

AZIAN!
THE WRITER OF THE POEMS!

MARIA ROSE...
WHY ARE YOU IN A PLACE LIKE...
Sing some more!!
What it's over already?
HMPH
IT'S LIKE THEY SAY "CRIMINALS ALWAYS RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME"
CAN YOU PUNISH HER, MY FRIEND?
LEAVE IT TO ME BUDDY

FITFUL
THE CRIMINAL IS YOU, YOU DAMN COPY-CAT BAS-TARD!
?
THAT GUY BEHIND YOU... WHERE HAVE I...?

GEH!
JI-JIN!!!
THESE CLOTHES...
SERIAL KILLER... FEIYAN'S...
I'M SORRY! PLEASE EXCUSE ME!
It should be "never forget me"!
AH!
WAIT! MY FRIEND!
Ever forget me!
SORRY! I FORGOT THAT I ACTUALLY HAD SOMETHING TO DO!
SEE YOU LATER, BUDDY!

I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND THE SITUATION, BUT
THAT'S NOT FAIR MY FRIEND...
WHY ARE YOU WITH JIN, MARIA?
JUST BE QUIET FOR A SECOND!
EVI DENCE...?
I BROUGHT IT. EVIDENCE
IT SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU STOP SING-ING THOSE PERVERTED SONGS

I'VE WON! WITH THIS, NO LONGER WOULD I HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT SEEING VISIONS OF AZIAN IN THE STREETS!
AND MY NAME WILL BE CLEARED AS THE MODEL OF THIS CRAFFY SONG!
PERVERT SONG... YOU SAY?
While i'm not knowledgeable about it, i can't help but agree with you.
Especially the "I want to mix your fragrances" part
YOU WROTE THESE POEMS.
!

BUT THAT WAS A LIMITED EDITION...
HOW DID SOMEONE ELSE GET
AH.
YOU THREW IT AWAY AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU, MARIA ROSE?
Something heavy like that over and over again!
JUST TRY THINKING HOW IT FEELS TO BE THE ONE RETURNING IT TO YOUR HOUSE!
NO! IT'S IN MY HOUSE RIGHT—
THE COLLECTIONS OF POEMS YOU GAVE ME!
"Love Max"!!
Both physically and mentally heavy!
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?!

HEY,
HELMET HAIR
I'M NOT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE THEFT OF WORKS OR WHATEVER, BUT...
You should remember every word and verse because you're the one who wrote it
LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING
I WANT... THAT GUY WITH RED HAIR.
But I mean, there were so many pages!
AND NOW...
LOOK AT WHAT THEY'RE DOING
YOU MEAN... THAT LOVER'S QUARREL?

Enough about the smell already!!!
YOU SMELL A BIT MORE THAN USUAL
DID YOU WORK UP A SWEAT?
This in itself is quite...
IT'S AS IF HE CAN GRASP THE HEART FROM BEHIND
Get it! Disappear! Fly away!
WHAT IS THIS EMOTION WHICH IS FALSELY SIMILAR TO RAGE?
THAT IS
"JEALOUSY"
IS IT NOT?
IT COMES WITH ROMANTIC FEELINGS

ドキッ
...INTE-
RESTING.
"JEA-
LOUSY" YOU
SAY...?
ME?
A...
ALL I DID
WAS ANSWER
YOUR QUES-
TION!!!
WHAT'S
WITH YOU!!
YOU VIOLENT
BRUTE!
...!...

IT'S UN-PLEASANT.
GET AWAY FROM HIM!
PERVERT MASTER!
...I PROBABLY HAVE A LOWER PERVERT INDEX THAN YOU.
YOU HAVE A TOOTH EXTRACTION FETISH, YOU DEMON LEADER...
UMM
WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS ?

A DRAB COMPETI-TION*!
What's with this...
DEMON!
*Dongurl no Sakuhin: comparing heights of worms. Basically means neither of them has anything good to show. They're both about the same.
HMPH!
EVEN IF I DO IT SERIOUSLY, NO ONE LIKES IT...
BUT A WEIRD SONG IS POPULAR...
IS THE WORLD
MUCH MORE MANIACAL THAN I THOUGHT?
!?
"WEIRD SONG"...

SO WHEN I SAW YOUR COLLECTION OF POEMS ON THE STREET, I WAS VERY SURPRISED
SHAMELESS POEMS WHICH EVEN I WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO SAY OUT LOUD
I MADE A MEMO OF IT AND PUT IT IN MY SONGS AS A JOKE. AND...
THE SMELL OF YOUR EXISTENCE
It's good! I can feel the heart of it! It's a good song!
Huh? This is the part where you laugh.
I GOT REQUESTS FOR THE MUSIC FROM MY FELLOW MINSTRELS

HE SANG IT KNOWING IT WAS WEIRD!
...IT WAS A SUDDEN WHIM.
I'M... BAD AT WRITING POEMS.

AM I...
BEING PRAISED, MARIA?
NO, I THINK IT'S THE OPPOSITE.
WELL, WITH THIS THE PLAGIARISM IS OBVIOUS!
YOU WILL STOP SINGING THAT SONG NOW, RIGHT?
I WON'T SING IT,
BUT...
I THINK IT'LL BE HARD TO GET THE OTHER MINSTRELS TO STOP.

THAT SONG IS ALREADY
OUT OF MY CONTROL
IT'S CALLING TO THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE
I'M SORRY, BUT...
YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE BUT TO WAIT UNTIL IT GET OLD.
THEN, ARE YOU TELLING ME TO ENDURE THAT "NOISE"?!
THAT'S TROUBLESOME!!
I DON'T PARTICULARLY MIND IF IT GETS SUNG.
Let them all see it our love
I MIND!!!

TRAM-PLE...
I'M FRUS-TRATED, TOO
DON'T LOOK OVER HERE, PERVERT #2!!!
HOW GOOD IT WOULD BE
IF THIS POPULARITY WAS BECAUSE OF MY SKILL.
IT'S THE WORST PUNISH-MENT
.....
.....
I'VE LEARNT SOME-THING, THOUGH.

"LOVE SONGS" ARE...
PERFECT FOR BEING SLIGHTLY FOOLISH AND EMBARRASSING
I'LL TRY MY LUCK WITH MY NEXT CREATION

...I'VE LOST INTEREST
I'M GOING
.....
I'LL TAKE THEM OUT NEXT TIME
I won't give up

MMM...
EVEN THOUGH I WON AGAINST THE MINSTREL AND MY COLD IS GONE
WHY DON'T I FEEL ANY BETTER?
AHH...
OH GOD! THEY'RE DOING THAT SONG AGAIN!
HEY, MARIA!
YOU'RE THE ONLY THING THAT COMES INTO MY MIND AND THAT'S DISTURBING!
No matter where, every time I hear
YOU SAID IT BEFORE, BUT...
JUST WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE SONG THAT TROUBLES YOU SO MUCH?
IT'S BECAUSE

WELL THEN, I'LL BE LE
V—
!!

MA—
MARIA, I'LL—
NO!
YOUR INTERPRETATION IS PROBABLY WRONG!
YOU'RE THE ONLY THING THAT COMES INTO MY MIND..
WH...?
AH...!

RETURN THIS.

PUDDING?! IT'S NOT TOO SOON AT ALL!
Rather, if you don't eat it within today...
GOOD-NIGHT, MARIA ROSE!
I'VE RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE,
BUT,
I THINK IT'S TOO SOON WE MUSN'T RUSH—

BESIDES, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY... MY "MESSAGE"?!
.....
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS?
THIS MUCH BY YOURSELF IN ONE DAY...
THAT'S CRAZY, KATARI!
BUT...
I'M GLAD IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR COLD IS ALL BETTER, MARIA.
YEAH...

THAT SONG WRITTEN AS "EVERY TIME LOVE"...
Here you go Shinne fruit
I FIND IT A BIT HARD... TO UNDER-STAND...
THANKS TO YURIKA, I DON'T NEED TO GET FAKE TEETH!
Seriously thank you!
?
THIS TIME THE BIGGEST SHOCK WAS...
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO COULD ACTUALLY EMPATHIZE WITH THAT SONG.
EH?
GEORGE LOVE"? WHO'S THAT?
What a fortune teller? Does he get rich? Does he work right?
EVERYONE WHO'S IN LOVE IS DRUNK!
IT'S EXTREME AND JUST RIGHT, DON'T YOU THINK?
Hey! Daimon!!
IT'S ACTUALLY BUNNY SHAPED APPLES....

"The song's name – Every time Love, is read as "Jyuuji ai", Jyuuji= every time, ai = love, now Jyouji sounds like George, so he is making a very bad pun

BUT WELL...
WHAT-EVER
EVEN THOUGH YOU SAID EATING IT YOURSELF WAS YOUR DREAM...
its better to enjoy it together than to hog it to yourself
whether it be songs or pudding
Well even so...

T-fu is scary
I'll ea-ve you
That's not fu...
IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S MORE DELICIOUS
WHEN IT'S EATEN WITH EVERY-ONE

ON SECOND THOUGHT, I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS SONG...
Ruby colored ?
Ruby colored hair...

IS THAT
BRAGGING, I WONDER?
Mother you're smoking again~
HUH?
"I'M BEING STALKED," YOU SAY?
A VEILED BRAG ABOUT YOUR POPULARITY LIKE THAT IS EVEN WORSE THAN JUST DIRECTLY BRAGGING ABOUT IT
NO... I'M SERIOUSLY BEING...
I MEAN...

WITH THOSE LOOKS,
EVEN IF YOU WERE TO BE ATTACKED BY SOME ROWDY CROWD, NOBODY WOULD SYMPATHIZE YOU!
Understand? Kitten!
MORI, IS IT OK FOR ME TO RETURN THAT LINE RIGHT BACK AT YOU?

LET'S SEE...
THERE'S A WAY FOR YOU TO DISCOURAGE THEM WITH YOUR APPEARANCE
IT WON'T DETERIORATE FROM REVERSE SHAPING...
IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY BUT...

I'm the one who got delivered a fatal blow.
.....
LIKE LEAVING A RUNNY NOSE TO DANGLE?
I don't want a double-edged sword.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT WOULD DESTROY YOUR DIGNITY.
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR COLOR.
COLOR?
FIRST OFF, YOU HAVE "RED" ALL OVER YOUR BODY, WHICH STIMULATES THE LUST OF MALES!
YOUR ACCENT IS AN "ORANGE" WHICH IS EFFECTIVE FOR BEARING CHILDREN!
I don't understand what you mean by "effective"
TO FINISH IT OFF, YOU ALSO HAVE "PINK", WHICH GOVERNS THE GENITALS!
WITH THIS, ALL LIVING THINGS WITH COLOR VISION WILL FEEL FRISKY UPON SEEING YOU.
RIICHE,
PREPARE EVERYTHING WHICH I'VE WRITTEN DOWN.
YES MOTHER.

WITH A HARD-TO-APPROACH "BLACK" WIG
AND "DARK GRAY" CLOTHES WHICH DENIES ALL LUSTS
TO FINISH IT, THE CALMING "BLUE" COLOR CONTACTS!
Of course, something which doesn't show your curves
This set of colors
A discouraging style mixed code
WITH THIS, IT'S PERFECT
A COSPLAY OF AZIAN?!

MARIA... HAS BECOME MY FAN?!
Get down from there!

I... I THINK IT SUITS YOU QUITE WELL
No matter what the color you are you!
.....

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